



# FINAL

## Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report Stewart River Training Area, Alaska

U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program  
Qualitative Operational Range Assessments

Prepared for:

U.S. Army Environmental Command and  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States (U.S.) Army is conducting qualitative assessments at operational ranges to meet the requirements of Department of Defense policy and to support the U.S. Army Sustainable Range Program. The operational range qualitative assessment (hereinafter referred to as Phase I Assessment) is the first phase of the U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program (ORAP). This Phase I Assessment evaluates the operational range area at Stewart River Training Area to assess whether further investigation is needed to determine if potential munitions constituents of concern (MCOC) are or could be migrating off-range at levels that may pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. In conducting the Phase I Assessment, MCOC sources, potential off-range migration pathways, and potential off-range human and ecological receptors are evaluated as appropriate.

Stewart River Training Area encompasses 25,600 acres of land located approximately 23.2 miles north of Nome, in the Kigluaik Mountains on the Seward Peninsula in northwest Alaska. The training area consists of two operational ranges: a field firing range and a maneuver training area. There is no non-operational use area at Stewart River Training Area (Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase, 2005).

Stewart River Training Area was used sporadically from 1987 to 1997 under temporary use permits, and on only three occasions since 1998 for weekend training exercises. Since the Alaska Army National Guard began using Stewart River Training Area, its purpose has been to conduct live-fire and field training exercises for troop readiness in sub-arctic tundra conditions.

Potential MCOC sources identified at Stewart River Training Area consist of the maneuver training area and the field firing range. In general, MCOC from primary source areas potentially impact soil. Although military munitions have been used on Stewart River Training Area, the migration of on-range MCOC to off-range receptors is unlikely. Although surface water is adjacent to the temporary range fans constructed within the field firing range, a limited quantity of munitions is present. This reduced source component combined with the cold climate and heavy vegetative cover make migration via surface water unlikely. No potable groundwater is present beneath Stewart River Training Area and there are no drinking water wells within four miles of the facility. Surface waters from the SRTA do not contribute to the confined marble aquifer that supplies the City of Nome with water. Based on the limited munitions use at Stewart River Training area, the two operational ranges at Stewart River Training Area are categorized as Unlikely.

### **Unlikely – Five-Year Review**

Two ranges at Stewart River Training Area are categorized as Unlikely, totaling 25,600 acres. These ranges consist of a maneuver training area and a field firing range. Based upon a review of readily available information, ranges where there is sufficient evidence to show that there are no known releases or source-receptor interactions off-range that could present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment are categorized as Unlikely. Ranges categorized as Unlikely are required to be re-evaluated at least every five years. Re-evaluation may occur sooner if significant changes (e.g., change in range operations or site conditions, regulatory changes) occur that affect determinations made during this Phase I Assessment. **Table ES-1** summarizes the Phase I Assessment findings.

**Table ES-1: Summary of Findings and Conclusions for Stewart River Training Area**

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathway(s)	Human Receptors	Ecological Receptors	Conclusions and Rationale
Unlikely	2 operational ranges; 25,600 acres	No source—limited military munitions use		Not evaluated (no MCOC source identified)		Re-evaluate during the five-year review. No source was identified

## ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

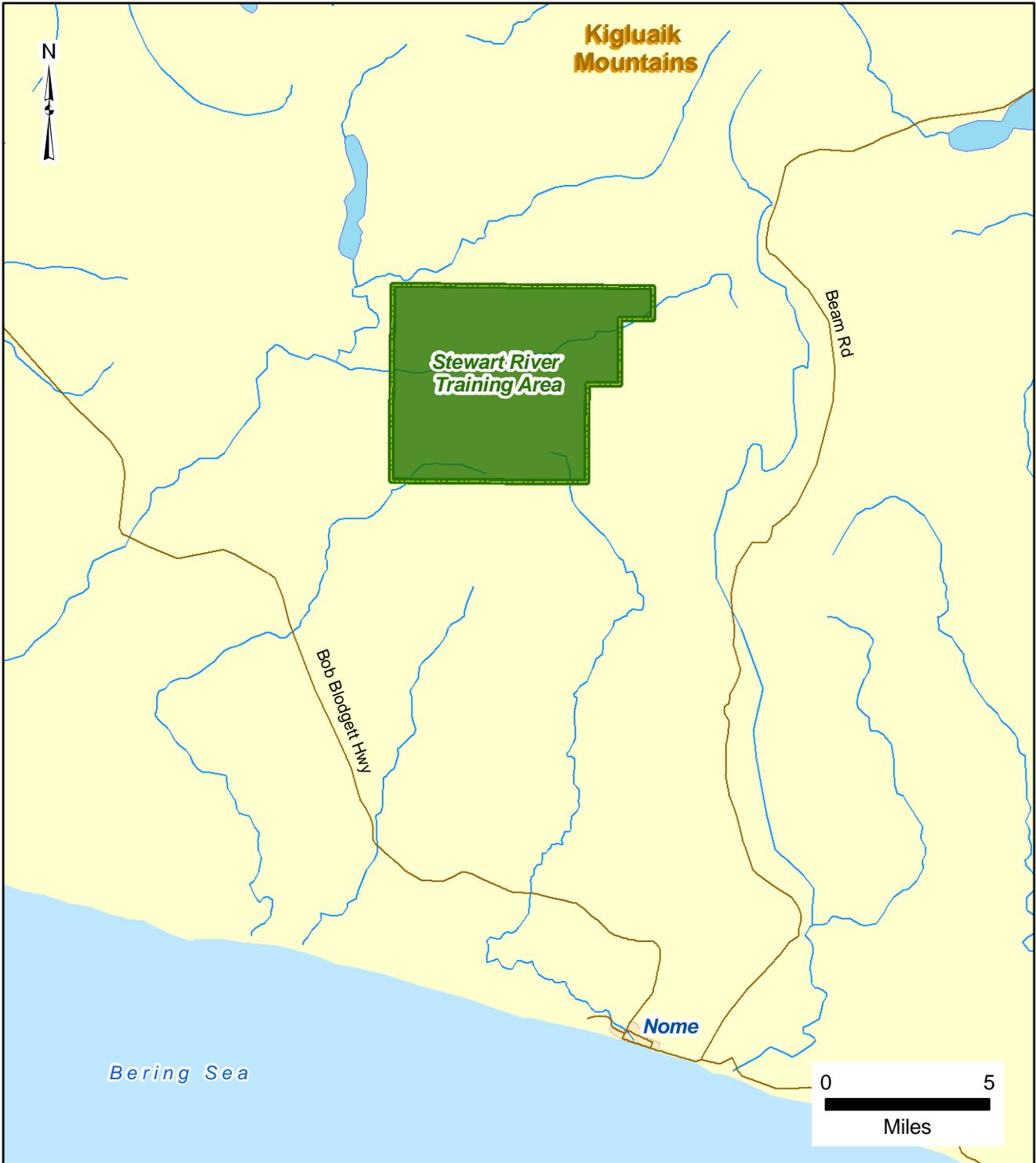
ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
AKARNG	Alaska Army National Guard
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
DODI	Department of Defense Instruction
E	Ecological receptors identified. (This refers to range grouping; pathway designation always precedes E designation.)
GW	Groundwater pathway identified. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes GW designation.)
H	Human receptors identified. (This refers to range grouping; pathway designation always precedes H designation.)
HE	High Explosives
LS	Limited Source
M	Munitions used. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes applicable pathway.)
MCOC	Munitions Constituents of Concern
NG	Nitroglycerin
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
ppm	Parts Per Million
PU	Pathway unlikely or incomplete. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes PU designation.)
SW	Surface water pathway identified. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes SW designation.)
T&E	Threatened or Endangered
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USACHPPM	United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
USAEC	United States Army Environmental Command
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit



Operational Range Assessment Program  
Phase I Qualitative Assessment  
Stewart River Training Area, AK



**Figure 1-1**  
**General Location of Stewart River Training Area**



**Installation Data**

- Installation Boundary
- Operational Range Area

**Transportation**

- Minor Hwy

**Hydrology**

- Streams/Rivers
- Waterbody

Data Sources:  
ARID-GEO, Dec 2005  
ESRI, StreetMap, 2006

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